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Borough of Aldeburgh

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1960



C. H. IMRIE,
T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Hon. Surgeon to H.M. the Queen.



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The Mayor Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Aldeburgh.

Mr. Mayor,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my annual report for the year 1960 dealing with the general health of the population of the Borough and with such matters as may have a bearing on the health of the community.

I would like to thank the Council and Officers for their help and cooperation during the year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

C. H. IMRIE

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. Imrie, T.D., Q.H.S., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

W. Hodgson, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Population.

According to the figures supplied by the Registrar General for mid 1960 the population of Aldeburgh was 3,030 which is an increase of 20 over the previous year. As 1960 is the last intercensal year before the 1961 census this number is liable to modification.

Births.

The total number of live births registered was 43, which is the lowest number for many years. The Birth Rate is consequently much below the rate for England and Wales. The number of Still Births was 2. There had been no Still Births recorded during the previous 5 years.

Deaths.

There were 55 deaths which was the highest total for a number of years. The Death Rate of 14.1 is consequently above the rate for England and Wales. The Infantile Deaths totalled 3 as compared with 1 the previous year.

The main causes of death are those associated with old age i.e. diseases of the heart and circulatory systems and malignant diseases. These two groups together accounted for the increase in the number of deaths. It is also probably true to say that the lowness of the Birth Rate can be attributed to some extent to the increasing proportion of older people in the Town population.

During the year there were no deaths from infective causes of any kind while accidents produced one fatality. There were no deaths associated with childbirth.

Notifiable Diseases.

The main infection was measles and 87 notifications of this disease were received. The outbreak was in being at the beginning of the year and reached its maximum in February and had died away by June. A few notifications were, however, received during the last two months of the year. As might be expected it was the younger children who supplied most of the cases. The age group to be hardest hit was 5-10 years of age while there were a few cases among the pre-school toddlers. The Tuberculosis Register showed a slight increase during the year from 11 to 14.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the Borough.....2,679 acres.
Rateable Value.....£46,987
Product of 1d. Rate.....£194

VITAL STATISTICS

Summary Covering Five Years.

	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Population	3030	3010	2820	2780	2750
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	14.4 (43)	25.9 (78)	20.6 (58)	24.4 (68)	21.1 (53)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	0.7 (2)	-	-	-	-
Death Rate per 1,000 population	18.1 (55)	14.6 (44)	12.5 (35)	13.3 (37)	14.9 (41)
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births	69.8 (3)	12.8 (1)	17.3 (1)	44.1 (3)	-

Figures in brackets are the actual number of relevant births or deaths.

		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1.	<u>BIRTHS</u>			
	Legitimate	20	21	41
	Illegitimate	1	1	2
2.	<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
	Legitimate	1	1	2
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
3.	<u>ALL DEATHS</u>	25	30	55
4.	<u>INFANTILE DEATHS</u>	-	3	3
5.	<u>DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH CHILDBIRTH</u>	-	-	-

COMPARABILITY.

For the purposes of statistical comparison with other districts of different sizes and composition the Registrar General supplies a factor which when applied to our Birth and Death Rates gives the following results:-

Birth Rate	Aldeburgh per 1,000 population	14.8
	England and Wales per 1,000 population.	17.1
Death Rate	Aldeburgh per 1,000 population	14.1
	England and Wales per 1,000 population.	11.5

DEATHS BY CAUSES

	1958	1959	1960		
			Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-
2. " Others	-	-	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1	-	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	1	1	-	1
11. " " Lung Bronchus	1	3	3	-	3
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	1	-	-	-	-
13. " " Uterus	-	-	-	1	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	7	2	6	8
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	2	-	-	-
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	8	3	6	9
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	8	9	7	3	10
Total carried forward	22	32	16	16	32

	1958	1959	1960		
			Male	Female	Total
Brought Forward	22	32	16	16	32
19. Hypertension with Heart Dis.	-	-	-	-	-
20. Other Heart Diseases	6	4	1	7	8
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	-	-	2	2	4
22. Influenza	-	-	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	1	2	1	3
24. Bronchitis	1	-	-	-	-
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	2	-	2
27. Gastritis Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	-	-	-	1	1
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	6	5	-	2	2
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	2	-	-	-
34. All other Accidents	-	-	-	1	1
35. Suicide	-	-	-	-	-
36. Homicide and actions of war	-	-	1	1	1
Total	35	44	25	30	55

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Monthly Incidence

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1958	1959	1958
Measles	12	64	5		1	1				1	3	87	6	1	
Erysipelas	1							1				2	1		
Whooping Cough												1			
Scarlet Fever					1		4					5			
Dysentery					1	1			1	1		4	31		
Food Poisoning								4				4	1	1	
Tuberculosis							1					2	2	1	
Acute Primary Pneumonia					2							2	6		
												106	48	3	

Age Distribution

	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	Over 50	Total
Measles	1	16	12	57		1					87
Erysipelas							1	1			2
Scarlet Fever		1		4							5
Dysentery						2	1			1	4
Food Poisoning									1	3	4
Tuberculosis				1		1					2
Acute Primary Pneumonia									1	1	2

TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
	Non- Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Total
	Pulmonary	Pulmonary	

Number of cases on Register at 1st January, 1960.	4	-	5	2	11
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time.	2	-	2	-	4
Number of cases restored to Register after being removed.	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by notification.	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases removed from Register during year.	1	-	-	-	1
Number of cases remaining on Register at 31st December, 1960.	5	-	7	2	14

WATER SUPPLY

The source of supply has remained the same as in previous years the water being extracted from the Coralline Crag layer by feeders, to a pumping well. Extraction is by ram pump at a nominal rate of 18,000 gallons per hour, delivering to a high level storage tower of 35,000 gallons capacity. A total quantity of 58 million gallons was abstracted during the year.

No restriction was placed on the use of water during the year although during Whit week the highest recorded consumption in 24 hours (300,000 gallons) was experienced. This was attributed to the very dry conditions before the holiday period, and to the fact that no charges are levied for garden watering purposes by any means. This assumption was supported by the fact that 4 days after the peak day, heavy rainfall occurred and consumption fell to 160,000 gallons in 24 hours.

The Council have since given active consideration to the question of the levy of a charge for garden watering purposes with a view to implementation during 1961.

The quality of the raw water has remained excellent throughout the year 16 samples being submitted for bacteriological analysis of both raw and chlorinated water, and 2 samples for chemical analysis of the raw water.

Typical results are shown below:

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT - RAW WATER FROM WELL

Water from Shallow Well, sample taken from No. 1 Sump, Aldeburgh Waterworks.

Date and hour of collection of sample 31.5.60. 08.00 hrs.
Date and hour of arrival of sample 31.5.60. 15.15 hrs.

Probable numbers of Coliform bacilli per 100 ml.....0

(Sgd) J. A. DIXON

M.O. i/c P. H. Laboratory.

Water from Main's Supply taken from tap at 18, Fairfield Road,
Aldeburgh.

Date and hour of collection of sample 5.8.60. 08.25 hrs.
Date and hour of arrival of sample 5.8.60. 15.05 hrs.

Probable numbers of Coliform bacilli per 100 ml.....0

(Sgd) J. A. DIXON

M. O. i/c P. H. Laboratory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample taken from No. 1 Sump, Aldeburgh Waterworks.
Date Received 18th October, 1960.
Appearance Clear; trace deposit.
Nature of deposit Organic debris.
Colour Nil.
Odour.. Nil.
Taste.. Satisfactory.
Reaction Neutral pH 7.1

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.05	hardness as CaCO ₃ ;
Albuminiod nitrogen	0.03	Total 350
Nitrate nitrogen	7.50	Carbonate (temporary) 200
Nitrite nitrogen	0.01	Non-carbonate (permanent) 145
Chlorine as chlorides	142	Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ 205.
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs. 27° C.)	0.15	Free Carbon dioxide 23.5
Fluorine as F	0.10	Total solids (at 180° C.) 645
		Metals in solution other than iron Nil.

Opinion

The organic quality of this water is good and the chemical analysis as a whole is satisfactory. There is a marked decrease in salinity as compared with the last sample and this is accompanied by a fall in the total dissolved solids, and to some extent in the hardness, though this is not marked. The remainder of the analysis follows the usual lines, and in our opinion this water is fit for drinking and general purposes. The flourine content is low, and it may be noted for comparison that the figure usually regarded as optimum from the point of view of dental health is 1 part per million.

for Lincoln Sutton & Wood Ltd.

(Sgd) E. C. WOOD

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No extensions to Public Sewers were carried out during the year.

A scheme for the improvement of the sewerage of the town has been under consideration for some years and it has been agreed that such a scheme would make provision for the reception of sewage from part of the neighbouring rural district. During the year, in view of recent housing development in the north western area of the town it was resolved that the scheme be extended to include an area not previously served and where an increasing number of cesspools were of necessity being constructed.

The extension of the scheme would entail the construction of a pumping station in the Leiston Road area.

Consultations were held between the Borough Council, East Suffolk and Norfolk River Board and the East Suffolk County Council, in connection with the design of the proposed outfall works and the standard of effluent for discharge into the tidal section of the River Alde and as a result the preparation of a scheme for the inclusion of biological filters and humus tanks at the works was put in hand.

During times of exceptionally heavy rainfall sections of the main sewers continue to be surcharged due to the inadequacy of certain lengths of sewer and the limitations of the pumping plant to deal with the increased flow and the installation of an anti-back-flooding valve on a drain became necessary to prevent nuisance on private property.

During the early part of the year a sewer cleaning programme was completed on old sewers in the lower parts of the town where numerous blockages had occurred. A considerable amount of foreign matter was removed including many stoppers from interception traps, cutlery, bottles, stones and shingle. No further blockages were experienced on the lengths of sewer so cleared.

HOUSING

Statistics.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	8	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	12	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	16	26	-	-
Totals	32	46	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floord (S.6)	1	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.).	1	2	-	1	-
(a) Insufficient	-	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	3	-	2	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

Section 47 - No action required.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

Premises where treatments carried out:	Dwellinghouses	44
	Other Premises	4

FOOD PREMISES

Number of Food Premises by type of business

Grocers	9	Ice Cream	17
Dairies	2	Butchers	3
Licensed Premises	17	Fried and Wet Fish	3
Bakers	2	Greengrocers	6
Sweets other than Grocers	2	Cafes	5

Number of Food Premises registered under Section 16
of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream Dealers	17	Sausage Manufacturers	3
		No. of inspections of registered premises	18
		No. found unsatisfactory	2

Milk and Dairies.

Licences issued:-

Dealers	Pasteurised	2
	T.T. (Pasteurised)	2
Supplementary	Pasteurised	1
	T.T. (Pasteurised)	1

MEAT INSPECTION

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
No. killed	61	5	111	65
No. inspected	56	5	90	63
Whole carcases condemned:				
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Other causes	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:				
Tuberculosis	2	-	-	2
Other causes	1	-	-	-

No cases of cysticercosis were found.

Note:

Condemned food is normally disposed of by burial on refuse tip sites.

No special examinations have been carried out on consignments of food.

